

OUACHITA



PARISH

“ ...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12

OUACHITA
PARISH

Ouachita Parish

History¹

One of the original 19 parishes, Ouachita was created on March 31, 1807. Meaning silver water, it was named for the Ouachita Indians.

Many mounds are found in the Ouachita Valley. Hernando DeSoto explored this rich territory in 1541.

French settlers were here as early as 1720. The original parish was later divided into eight other Louisiana parishes.

Culture and Recreation³

Located on the Ouachita River, in Ouachita Parish, Monroe and West Monroe offer a taste of Louisiana history, art, entertainment, food and family fun. Antique Alley (in 1880's buildings) is a delight to thousands annually. The Biedenharn Home, constructed in 1914 by Joseph Biedenharn, who was the first to bottle Coca-Cola in 1894, is filled with beautiful antique furnishings. In addition, the Biedenharn Foundation consists of a Bible Museum and ElSong gardens.



**Monroe/West Monroe
Convention &
Visitors Bureau**
P.O. Box 6054
Monroe, LA 71211-6054
800-843-1872
318-387-5691

**Regional Office of
Public Health**
Billie J. Strickland,
Regional Administrator
Northeast Regional
Office
2913 Betin St.
Monroe, LA 71201

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 6118
Monroe, LA 71211-6118
318-362-5211
318-362-3163 fax

Parish Seat¹ Monroe¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Monroe	
1990	54,909
1997 (estimate)	55,926
West Monroe	
1990	14,096
1997 (estimate)	14,339
Claiborne CDP*	
1990	8,300
1997 (estimate)	N/A
Brownsville/Bawcomville CDP*	
1990	7,397
1997	N/A

*Census Designated Place

Parish Population²

1990	142,191
1997 (estimate)	147,177

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White	66%
African American	33%
Other	1%
Male	47%



Female	53%
Population age 0-4	8%
Populations age 65 & over	12%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	77 ft.
Land area in square miles	611
Water area in square miles ⁴	21.8

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	65°
January	44°
July	83°
Annual average rainfall	67.2 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	67,200
Employed	63,300
Unemployed	3,900
Unemployment	5.8%

Agriculture¹

Cotton, soybeans, livestock, forestry,
horticultural crops, rice, corn, and grain.

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Grambling State University, Grambling
Louisiana Tech University, Ruston
Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe

Public Libraries⁵ 5

Educational Attainment (1990)⁷

Less than 5th grade	3.4%
High school graduate or higher	71.6%
Some college or higher	41.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	18.9%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²

Private Employers	
St. Francis Medical Center (Medical)	1,586
Riverwood Forest Products (Paper Products)	1,500
Glenwood Medical Center (Medical)	1,000
Public Employers	
Ouachita Parish School System (Education)	2,214
Northeast Louisiana University (Education)	1,519
Monroe City School System (Education)	1,490

Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	23.0%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	34.4%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$19,621

References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- ² Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://ded.state.la.us>
- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>



**OUACHITA
PARISH**

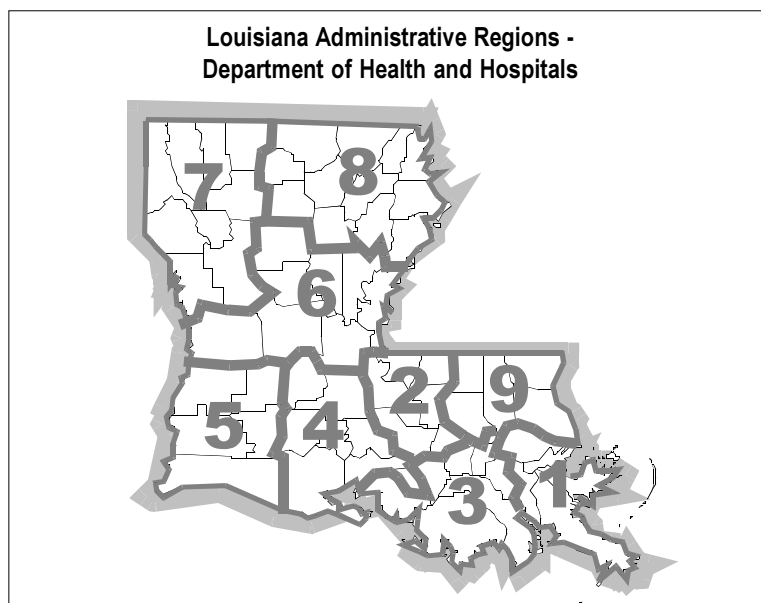
⁴ Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>

⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>

⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>

⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>

⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington